



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

Juvenile Reentry Task Force/JReS

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Jessie Parker Building
510 E. 12th Street, Grant Room
Des Moines, IA 50319

January 20, 2016

Present: Ralph Allbee; Jim Chesnik; Cara Weis for DeAnn Decker; Jackie Gray; Jan Huff; Mary Jackson; Kristi Judkins; Eric Kool; Jessica Kropf; Carl Kruger; Gary Niles; Lettie Prell; John Spinks; Joan VandenBerg

Staff: Steve Michael; Dave Kuker; Julie Rinker; Laura Roeder-Grubb; Jeff Regula

Others: Jason Haglund, Youth & Shelter Services

- **Call to Order, Welcome/Introductions**

Steve Michael welcomed those in attendance at 8:38 a.m. Introductions were made. A quorum was present.

- **Minutes – December 9th Meeting**

Gary Niles moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting, seconded by Ralph Allbee. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **CJJP Activities**

- **Update since last meeting (DC trip)**
- **Discussions With Committee Chairs**

CJJP staff provided the following update.

- Information that addresses activities and barriers has been submitted to the feds;
- Still awaiting budget confirmation—approval is expected any time. The reentry coordinator position has not been posted.
- A federal update is due in March.
- In December, Roeder-Grubb and Kuker attended a reentry conference in Washington, DC. Emphasis was placed on the importance of family engagement and risk-based case planning.
- [Gina Vincent](#), University of Massachusetts Medical School, is providing technical assistance and suggests that risk assessments are attached to case plans and shared throughout the juvenile court process.

- An inquiry has been made regarding whether technical assistance comes from the budget or is provided as part of the grant.
- A contract for MDFT (Multi-dimensional Family Therapy) at the Boys' State Training School (STS) has been started with the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- Meetings to develop a contract and budget have been held with the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) regarding YTDM (Youth Transition Decision Making).
- An event with Education, Workforce, and federal partners is being planned in Dubuque on March 16.
- Meetings have been held with subcommittee chairs to develop outlines of activities to share with other agencies. These documents will be finalized today.

Separately, in late February/early March, the Council of State Governments (CSG) will conduct a site visit to meet with state leaders. Discussions will surround the potential for Iowa to receive intensive technical assistance to develop a comprehensive statewide plan to improve outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. Although Iowa was one of eight states selected, the list will be pared to 3-4 states by early/mid-April. Meeting invitations will be sent to a variety of individuals.

Discussion included ways to inform and prepare agency directors prior to the meetings. Kristi Judkins offered to be part of the preparations. Others interested were encouraged to contact Steve Michael or Dave Kuker.

Liz Seigle, the CSG contact for the reentry effort, will be in attendance and will meet separately with this reentry group during its March meeting.

- **Overview/Break Into Subcommittees**
 - **ALL Subcommittees**
 - **Major Activities – Performance Measures**
 - **One page documents for identified audiences**

Due to an overlap of work, the Planning/Reentry and Structure/Assessment Subcommittees have merged. The other subcommittees are Education/Workforce and Services/Supports.

Meetings have been held with subcommittee chairs to create an outline of primary activities, performance measures, and outcomes. The focus for this meeting is to finalize this information for the next 6-12 months. Members were encouraged to include policy changes surrounding YTDM, assessment, schools, and workforce.

- **Subcommittee reports - Large Group Discussion**

The subcommittees met for two hours and reported the following:

- **Assessment/Planning – Gary Niles/Eric Kool**
 - Increase focus on delinquency risk factors to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes.
 - Streamline processes and make enhancements in ICIS (Iowa Courts Information System) for efficiency. Retool assessments to provide real-time updates.
 - Develop a referral process within ICIS that provides case planning information to multiple providers and agencies.

- Develop a web exchange for JCS, placement agencies, and schools to facilitate communication and information access between these entities.

○ **Services – Ralph Allbee**

- YTDM (Youth Transition Decision-Making)—After meeting with DHS regarding the lengthy YTDM certification process, there was consensus to meet with the five DHS service area coordinators to discuss whether there are an adequate number of YTDM facilitators to provide services to reentry youth, especially in metro areas. This meeting will occur within 30 days.

Once in place, juvenile court officers (JCO's) will have a process to coordinate YTDM facilitators with youth entering the STS. YTDM training will be provided to STS staff

- Title XIX—To avoid disruptions in medication, notices will be sent 60 days prior to departure from the STS. A written policy or standardized procedure is needed to define roles within STS, JCS, and DHS; identify youth and their release dates, and implement a Title XIX application process. This process should take into consideration the Iowa girls sent to Wisconsin. Eric Kool is meeting with Doug Wolfe, DHS, next week.
- MDFT (Multi-dimensional Family Therapy)—A pilot program in the 2nd and 5th Judicial Districts will be run by Youth & Shelter Services (YSS). Jason Haglund, YSS, provided an overview. The [Rethink Recovery](#) website provides more information on MDFT, a family-centered, system approach that engages families to help with substance abuse, mental health, medication, etc. The six-month program will begin 90 days prior to and following departure from the STS.
- Community supports—need to identify resources for housing, education, health, employment, and other supports. While there are subcommittee overlaps, some supports include:
 - ✓ AA/NA sponsors;
 - ✓ out-patient services;
 - ✓ leisure activities;
 - ✓ employment;
 - ✓ mentors;
 - ✓ mental/physical health needs;
 - ✓ self-help groups;
 - ✓ housing—safe housing, sex offender registry/housing concerns;
 - ✓ voluntary continued probation

○ **Education/Workforce – Kristi Judkins & Joan VandenBerg**

- Education/Workforce Systems Cross-training—identify connections/gaps, staff to be trained in YTDM, and students eligible to receive PETS (Pre-employment transition services). Through collaboration, youth should be connected to services within 30 days from departure from the STS.
- Workforce – Enhance communication within the Workforce network; identify liaisons to work with reentry coordinator to connect youth to resources, services, and tools; identify eligible youth who can receive intensive case management services through WIOA;

- Education – need a liaison in each school district, a structure in each local area.
- **Kickoff Event (March/April?)**

There was consensus to meet again on March 17.

- **Next meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning